What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-

2   of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   determining a monetary value;

4   allocating a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value;

5   outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that

6   identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and

7   storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, in which the step of determining a monetary value

2   comprises:

3   determining a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of

2   tickets comprises:

3   selecting a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary

4   value.

1   5.   The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of

2   tickets comprises:

3   determining a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great

4 as the monetary value; and

5   selecting a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

1 6. An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a

2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   a storage device; and

4   a processor connected to the storage device,

5   the storage device storing

6   a program for controlling the processor; and

7   the processor operative with the program to:

8   determine a monetary value;

9   allocate a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary

10 value;

11   output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier

12 that identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and

13   store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage device.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, in which the processor is further operative with the

2 program to:

3   determine a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.

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1   8.   The apparatus of claim 6, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   select the ticket from a plurality of tickets.

1   9.   The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   select a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary

4   value.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   determine a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great as

4   the monetary value; and

5   select a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

1   11.   A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-

2   of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   determining a monetary value;

4   allocating a portion of each ticket of a plurality of tickets, the portion of each

5   ticket being associated with a portion of the monetary value;

6   outputting a plurality of ticket identifiers that identify the plurality of tickets and a

7   plurality of portion identifiers that identify the allocated portions of each ticket; and

8   storing the ticket identifiers and the portion identifiers.

1   12.   An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a

2   point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   a storage device; and

4   a processor connected to the storage device,

5   the storage device storing

6   a program for controlling the processor; and

7   the processor operative with the program to:

8   determine a monetary value;

9   allocate a portion of each ticket of a plurality of tickets, the portion of each

10   ticket being associated with a portion of the monetary value;

11   output a plurality of ticket identifiers that identify the plurality of tickets

12   and a plurality of portion identifiers that identify the allocated portions of each ticket; and

13   store the ticket identifiers and the portion identifiers in the storage device.

1   13.   A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-

2   of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   determining an amount of change due for a purchase;

4   determining a monetary value based on the amount of change due;

5   selecting a ticket from a plurality of tickets, the selected ticket having an

6   unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value;

7   allocating at least a portion of the selected ticket, the portion being based on the

8   monetary value;

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9   outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that

10   identifies the allocated portion of the selected ticket; and

11   storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, in which the step of determining a monetary value

2   comprises:

3   rounding the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby

4   generating a rounded change amount; and

5   setting the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, in which the step of rounding the amount of change due

2   comprises:

3   rounding down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby

4   generating a rounded-down change amount.

1   16.   The method of claim 13, further comprising:

2   outputting an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

1   17.   An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a

2   point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   a storage device; and

4   a processor connected to the storage device,

5   the storage device storing

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6   a program for controlling the processor; and

7   the processor operative with the program to:

8   determine an amount of change due for a purchase;

9   determine a monetary value based on the amount of change due;

10   select a ticket from a plurality of tickets, the selected ticket having an

11   unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value;

12   allocate at least a portion of the selected ticket, the portion being based on

13   the monetary value;

14   output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier

15   that identifies the allocated portion of the selected ticket; and

16   store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage device.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 17, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   round the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a

4   rounded change amount; and

5   set the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 18, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   round down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby

4   generating a rounded-down change amount.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 17, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   output an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

1   21.   A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-

2   of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   receiving a ticket identifier that identifies a ticket and a portion identifier that

4   identifies an allocated portion of the ticket;

5   determining a prize value of the ticket; and

6   determining a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the

7   ticket.

1   22.   An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a

2   point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   a storage device; and

4   a processor connected to the storage device,

5   the storage device storing

6   a program for controlling the processor; and

7   the processor operative with the program to:

8   receive a ticket identifier that identifies a ticket and a portion identifier

9   that identifies an allocated portion of the ticket;

10   determine a prize value of the ticket; and
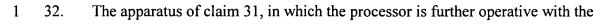
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11   determine a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the

12   ticket.

1   23.   A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-

2   of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   determining a monetary value;

4   allocating at least a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary

5   value;

6   determining a prize value of the ticket; and

7   providing a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

1   24.   An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a

2   point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   a storage device; and

4   a processor connected to the storage device,

5   the storage device storing

6   a program for controlling the processor; and

7   the processor operative with the program to:

8   determine a monetary value;

9   allocate at least a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the

10   monetary value;

11   determine a prize value of the ticket; and

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12   provide a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the

13   ticket.

1 25.   A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-

2   of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   maintaining a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion thereof;

4   acquiring an additional ticket.

1 26.   The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket

2   comprises:

3   counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first

4   predetermined threshold; and

5   acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated

6   portion that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined

7   threshold.

1 27.   The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket

2   comprises:

3   receiving an indication of a requested portion;

4   counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the

5   requested portion; and

6   acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion

7   that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

1   28.   The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket

2   comprises:

3   acquiring a predetermined number of additional tickets.

1   29.   The method of claim 25, further comprising:

2   calculating a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

1   30.   The method of claim 29, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket

2   comprises:

3   acquiring an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined

4   threshold.

1   31.   An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a

2   point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3   a storage device; and

4   a processor connected to the storage device,

5   the storage device storing

6   a program for controlling the processor; and

7   the processor operative with the program to:

8   maintain a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion

9   thereof; and

10   acquire an additional ticket.

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1   32.   The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first

4   predetermined threshold; and

5   acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated portion

6   that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined threshold.

1   33.   The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   receive an indication of a requested portion;

4   count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the

5   requested portion; and

6   acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion

7   that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

1   34.   The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   acquire a predetermined number of additional tickets.

1   35.   The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   calculate a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

1   36.   The apparatus of claim 35, in which the processor is further operative with the

2   program to:

3   acquire an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined

4   threshold.

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